

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Additionally in a close election this is plainly unfair. Imagine the uproar if Sinclair Broadcasting chose to broadcast Michael Moore's new movie which is clearly uncomplimentary to President Bush. I understand that there are some issues about the accuracy of this movie as well. This is uncalled for and is not in the public's best interest.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter. This is a precedent that should not be set as it will clearly undermine American politics.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.